

PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/758,820

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 72167.000232
RCE AmendmentAmendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for managing licensing information, said system comprising:

a licensing requirements database adapted to contain a source of licensing requirements information, said licensing requirements information including at least information related to obtaining and maintaining respective licenses with a plurality of licensing authorities;

an appointments database adapted to contain a source of appointments information, said appointments information including at least information related to one or more products offered by one or more suppliers;

a licensee database adapted to containing licensee information, said licensee information including:

information related to at least one licensee capable of holding said the licenses; and

information related to whether said at least one licensee is appointed to sell at least one of said one or more products offered by said one or more suppliers; and

a processor coupled to said licensing requirements database, said appointments database, and said licensee database, said processor operable to input information into said licensee database, operable to modify information in said licensee database and operable to retrieve information from said licensee database, according to criteria in said licensing requirements information.

2. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, wherein said licensing requirements information further comprises examinations for obtaining said license.

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3. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, wherein said licensing requirements information further comprises continuing education for maintaining said license.

4. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, wherein said licensing requirements information is further comprised of information from at least one state entity responsible for administering licensing requirements.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The licensing information system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one licensee ~~further~~ comprises an insurance agent.

7. (currently amended) The licensing information system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one licensee ~~further~~ comprises an insurance agency.

8. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising said processor operable to locate portions of said licensee information matching a criteria.

9. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising:

said processor operable to compare said licensee information with said licensing requirements information; and

a comparison result indicates differences between said licensee information and said licensing requirements information.

10. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 9, further comprising an automatic notification to said at least one licensee related to at least one difference between said licensee information and said licensing requirements information indicated by said comparison result.

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11. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising a licensee agency database, said licensee agency database containing licensee agency information, said licensee agency information including information related to at least one licensee agency.

12. (currently amended) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising a report database containing report information, said the report information including information related to at least one of reports and responsive forms.

13. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising:
said processor connectable to a worldwide network of interconnected computers;
a set of permissions capable of providing access authorization to users of said worldwide network; and
said processor permits access to said licensee database based on said set of permissions.

14. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising:
said processor connectable to an enterprise network of interconnected computers;
a set of permissions capable of providing access authorization to users of said enterprise network; and
said processor permits access to said licensee database based on said set of permissions.

15. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a communication interface capable of accessing at least one of said licensing authorities, said at least one licensing authority being a state entity responsible for

administering licensing information; and said processor is connectable to said interface thereby permitting information to be exchanged between said licensing information system and said at least one state entity.

16. (currently amended) The licensing information system according to **claim 1**, further comprising:

a certified continuing education provider database containing education provider information, said education provider information including at least information related to continuing education courses and continuing education requirements satisfied by said ~~the~~ continuing education courses; and

said certified continuing education provider database is coupled to said at least one processor.

17. (previously presented) The licensing information system according to **claim 1**, further comprising:

a computer display operable to display said licensee information under control of said processor.

18. (currently amended) A method of managing licensing information, the method comprising:

obtaining licensing requirements information from a plurality of licensing authorities, said ~~the~~ licensing requirements information being related to licensing requirements for at least one of obtaining and maintaining a license;

obtaining appointments information from one or more suppliers, said appointments information being related to one or more products offered by said one or more suppliers

accessing a database, said ~~the~~ database coupled to at least one processor and comprising entity information related to whether at least one entity fulfills said licensing requirements;

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comparing said licensing requirements to said entity information by said at least one processor to produce a comparison result; ~~and~~

determining an extent to which said comparison result indicates compliance with said licensing requirements by said at least one entity; and

determining an extent to which said at least one entity is appointed to sell at least one of said one or more products offered by said one or more suppliers.

19. (currently amended) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising:

identifying actions required by said at least one entity to at least one of obtain and maintain a license; and

prompting said at least one entity to take said required action.

20. (currently amended) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing required forms to said at least one entity;

submitting to at least one licensing authority said required forms made out by said at least one entity; and

~~and~~ updating a compliance status based on said submission to said licensing authority.

21. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said prompting is accomplished automatically based on a change in said status.

22. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said licensing requirements information further comprises license examination information.

23. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said licensing requirements information further comprises continuing education requirements for maintaining a license.

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24. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said at least one entity is an insurance agent.

25. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said at least one entity is an insurance agency.

26. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising:

inputting said entity information into said entity information database;
modifying said entity information in said entity information database;
retrieving said entity information from said entity information database; and
viewing said entity information in said entity information database.

27. (currently amended) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, wherein said obtaining licensing requirements further comprises obtaining continuing education provider information, said ~~the~~ continuing education provider information including continuing education curriculum information.

28. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising searching said entity information database to retrieve entity information related to at least one of a specified status and a specified entity information.

29. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising a status of said at least one entity, said status being representative of whether said at least one entity satisfies said licensing requirements.

30. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 29, further comprising notifying said at least one entity of at least

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one of said status, a change in said status and upcoming requirements for obtaining or maintaining said license.

31. (previously presented) The method of managing licensing information according to claim 18, further comprising providing materials usable by said at least one entity to satisfy said licensing requirements.

32. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The computer readable medium ~~media~~ containing a computer executable program code, wherein execution of said program code realizes said method according to claim 18.

33. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The processor operable to execute a program code, wherein execution of said program code on said processor realizes said method according to claim 18.

34. (currently amended) A method for determining compliance with license requirements, the method comprising:

obtaining licensing requirements information from a plurality of licensing authorities by way of at least one processor capable of accessing at least one of said plurality of licensing authorities through a communication interface, said licensing requirements information being related to licensing requirements for at least one of obtaining and maintaining a license, said licensing requirements information being stored in a database coupled to said at least one processor;

organizing licensee information related to at least one licensee by said at least one processor, said ~~the~~ at least one licensee capable of holding a license from some of said a plurality of license authorities;

organizing status information related to a status of at least one licensee license by said at least one processor; and

determining from a comparison between said status information and said licensing requirements information by said at least one processor whether said at least one licensee is in compliance with said licensing requirements.

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35. (previously presented) The method for determining compliance with license requirements according to claim 34, further comprising searching for licensees in compliance with said licensing requirements based on said determination.

36. (previously presented) The method for determining compliance with license requirements according to claim 34, further comprising notifying said at least one licensee of at least one of said status, a change in said status and upcoming licensing requirements.

37. (currently amended) A system for managing licensing information, comprising:

a licensing requirements database adapted to contain a source of licensing requirements information, said licensing requirements information including at least information related to obtaining and maintaining a license;

a licensee database adapted to containing licensee information, said licensee information including information related to at least one licensee capable of holding said the license; and

at least one processor coupled to said licensing requirements database and said licensee database, said at least one processor operable to input information into said licensee database, operable to modify information in said licensee database and operable to retrieve information from said licensee database, according to criteria in said licensing requirements information[.];

wherein said licensee information further includes information related to licensee appointments by a supplier of a product that may be sold by said at least one licensee.

38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) A system for managing licensing information, comprising:

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a licensing requirements database adapted to contain a source of licensing requirements information, said licensing requirements information including at least information related to obtaining and maintaining a license;

a licensee database adapted to containing licensee information, said licensee information including information related to at least one licensee capable of holding said the license;

at least one processor coupled to said licensing requirements database and said licensee database, said at least one processor operable to input information into said licensee database, operable to modify information in said licensee database and operable to retrieve information from said licensee database, according to criteria in said licensing requirements information; and

a communication interface capable of accessing at least one state entity responsible for administering licensing information, wherein said at least one processor is connectable to said interface thereby permitting information to be exchanged between said licensing information system and said at least one state entity.

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)